

NEBRASKA WIC VENDORS' UPDATE GROCERY STORE EDITION



January 2010

NEW WIC FOOD PACKAGE

- Thank you for your cooperation with the new food package for WIC.
- Points & reminders to share with you and your staff.
 - Whole Wheat Bread
 - Only the 16 ounce loaf of the following breads are WIC approved
 - Best Choice 100% Whole Wheat Enriched
 - Pepperidge Farm Stone Ground 100% Whole Wheat
 - Pepperidge Farm Swirl 100% Whole Wheat Cinnamon with Raisins
 - Pepperidge Farm Very Thin Soft 100% Whole Wheat
 - Roman Meal 100% Whole Wheat
 - Sara Lee Classic 100% Whole Wheat
 - Wonder Soft 100% Whole Wheat
 - **Stores are required as per their WIC agreement** to carry in inventory **4 -16 ounce loaves** of any of the authorized brands at all times regardless of the purchases made throughout the day.
 - **Note:** The variety and quantity in stock are defined as both inventory on display and on premises, but not inventory on order from the suppliers.
 - The 20 ounce loaf can **not** be substituted for the 16 ounce loaf.
 - **Please let us know if you are having difficulties with meeting the inventory requirements for the whole wheat bread.**
 - Soy Beverage—**ONLY** the 8th Continent Soy **Original** Flavor is WIC approved. Light Original and Fat Free Original are **NOT** WIC approved.
- Complete listings of the WIC approved foods are found in your Nebraska WIC Vendor Handbook and Approved Food List booklet provided to you at the WIC Contract Training in September.

COMMENT PERIOD...

The USDA is taking comments on the new food package interim rule.

- Comments must be postmarked on or before February 1, 2010.
- Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:
 - Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>
 - Mail: Debra Whitford, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service
USDA
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 520
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Reminder for Bookkeepers!

When processing WIC checks:

- Ensure you are using correct stamp (your Nebraska WIC authorized Vendor Number Stamp)
- Ensure stamp works well; use black ink
- Stamp each WIC check in the "Pay to the Order of" box
- Endorse back of each check
- Deposit checks for payment
- Order new or replacement stamps from your WIC vendor manager
- Return any problem check ASAP to your local agency WIC vendor manager, WIC checks expire 60 days from 1st date to use.

If you have any questions about the Nebraska WIC Program please contact either your local WIC agency vendor manager or Regina Paschold at the State WIC office by calling 402-471-2781 or via e-mail at Regina.Paschold@Nebraska.gov

WIC website address:
dhhs.ne.gov

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Lactose Free Milk

Q. If we are out of 1/2 gallons of lactose free milk, can we substitute quarts?

A. No. Substitutions are only allowed if you are out of gallons of milk, you may substitute 1/2 gallons of milk. Page 2.13 of your Nebraska WIC Vendor Handbook provides additional information on substitutions.

NOTE: Lactose free milk is in the 1/2 gallon size on WIC checks. We no longer have quarts as an option for the lactose free milk.

Canned Fish

Q. Is reduced sodium tuna allowed?

A. Yes, it is WIC approved in Nebraska.

Baby Food

Q. Is baby food with DHA and/or ARA added WIC approved?

A. No. Baby food with DHA and/or ARA added is not WIC approved in Nebraska.

Other

Q. If we do not have an item in stock when transacting a WIC check, can we issue the WIC shopper a raincheck for the item(s) that are out of stock?

A. No. Rainchecks are not allowed with a WIC transaction.

- Only charge for those prescribed items which are purchased.
- Not charge for prescribed items which are out of stock.
- Not issue rainchecks for such items.
- Maintain inventory requirements for WIC approved foods so that the WIC shopper is provided the WIC foods when using their WIC checks in your store.

Q. Is it okay to remove from our scanning system those foods which are no longer WIC approved?

A. Yes, it is okay to remove from your scanning system after December 1, 2009 those foods that are no longer WIC approved.

Q. Can we accept WIC checks from other states?

A. Only if you have a WIC contract with that specific state. Your Nebraska WIC agreement only authorizes you to accept Nebraska WIC checks.



*HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE NEBRASKA WIC STAFF
TO YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYEES! BEST WISHES FOR
THE NEW YEAR! WE APPRECIATE YOUR PARTNER-
SHIP WITH US AS WIC AUTHORIZED RETAILERS.*